Huddersfield Local History Society

Huddersfield Local History Society
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Newsletter No. 1
Autumn 1983

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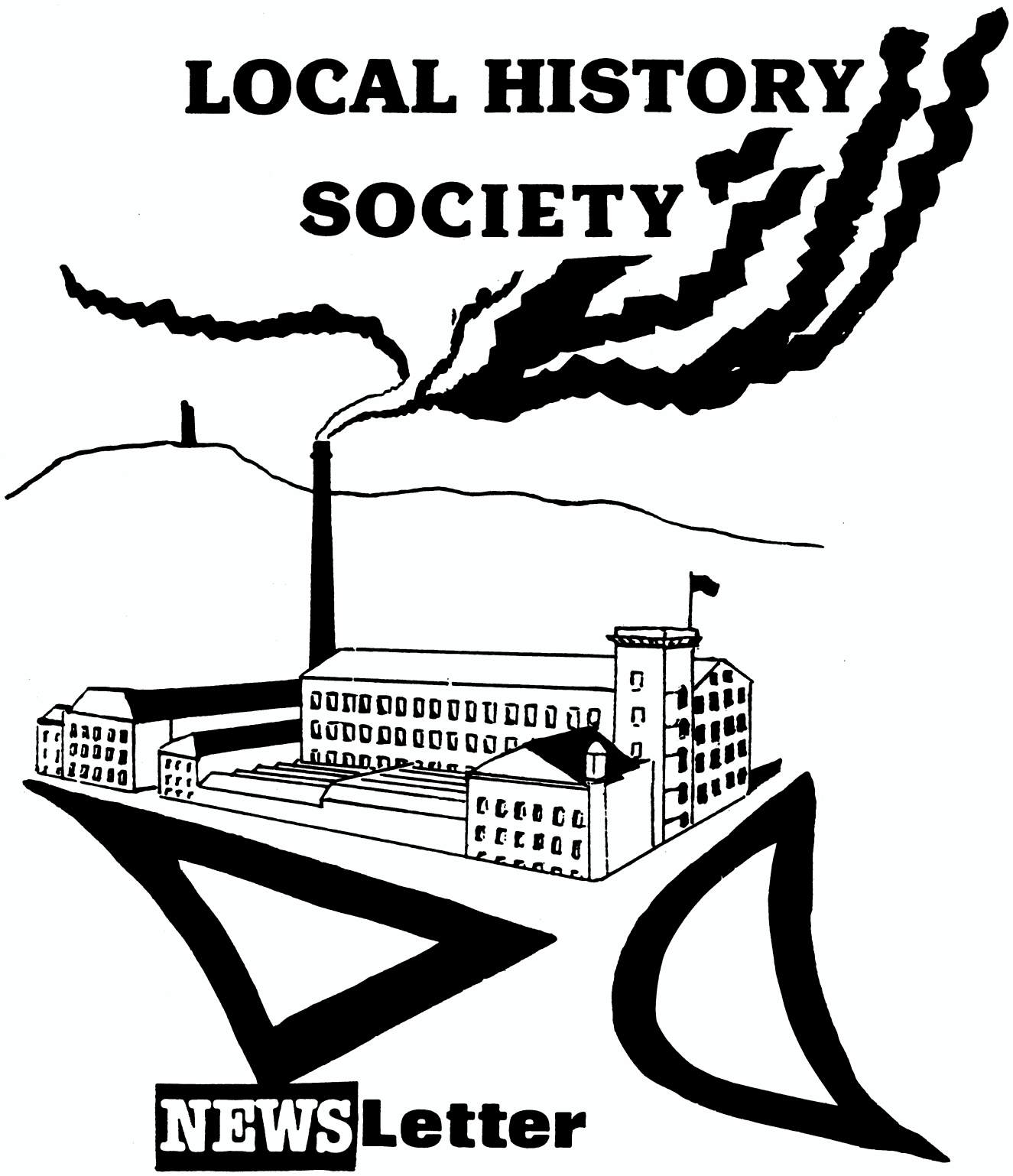
Huddersfield

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



NEWSLetter

No. 1. Autumn, 1983

Editorial

In launching this Newsletter it is the hope of the Committee that it will become a means of communication for the Membership as a whole. We would like members to look upon it as a medium for the publication of their articles and also historical notes and queries arising from their research which they wish to bring to the attention of the Workshop.

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SOME NOTES ON THE HUDDERSFIELD SHIPPING COMPANY AND ITS ASSOCIATES

by E.A. Hilary Haigh

For a shipping company to be found in Huddersfield today seems unlikely. In 1824, when the "Rules and Regulations of the Huddersfield Shipping Company" (1) were published, Huddersfield stood beside a transpennine waterway. The Sir John Ramsden canal from Cooper Bridge to Kings Mill, near Aspley, Huddersfield had been started in 1774 and was navigable by 1778 thus linking Huddersfield with Selby and Hull. The Huddersfield to Ashton canal had linked Aspley in Huddersfield with Ashton-under-Lyne and the Manchester Ship Canal to the west on the opening of the Standedge Tunnel in 1811. By the time Edward Baines published his "History, Directory and Gazetteer of the County of York" in 1822 four firms were providing conveyance by water from the canal Wharf. Widow Welsh and Sons conveyed goods by fly boat daily to Manchester in 24 hours, the Aire and Calder Navigation Company conveyed goods regularly to Hull, Edmund Buckley and Co's fly boats went daily to Dewsbury whence goods were conveyed by land to Leeds and J. & L. Marsden's boats went daily to Manchester. Richard Clay was agent for Sir John Ramsden's Navigation.

The Huddersfield Shipping Company was formed because "much convenience and advantage would result from the trade betwixt London and Huddersfield being carried on in Vessels adapted to the whole line of Navigation, so that goods may be transmitted in one Bottom, without being subject to transhipment, as has been hitherto done..."(2) The capital stock of the Company was to be £8,000 divided into 320 shares of £25.00 each. At the Annual General Meeting to be held on the second Friday of September five directors were to be elected from amongst the shareholders. Also at the Annual General Meeting a manager was to be elected along with a wharfinger for London.

The document mentioned above (1) is the only one so far traced which was published by the Huddersfield Shipping Company. It would be interesting to discover if any working documents exist which were actually produced by the Company. The Rules provide for books to be kept and balance sheets to be issued to shareholders.

The Company did take form, however, as the following reports from the "Leeds Mercury" indicates:

> "On Thursday week The Huddersfield Shipping Company launched a very fine sloop built at Huddersfield by Mr. Bradley Clay called the "Ramsden" intended for their London trade. (3)
>
> Mr. Bradley Clay may be said to be a product of the canal era. In 1818 he was the agent in Huddersfield for the Aire and Calder Navigation Company which shipped goods to Hull. By 1830 he had become a timber merchant, rope manufacturer and lime burner as well as a carrier to and from London and the Agent to Sir John Ramsden Bart at Aspley. His boats sailed daily from the Navigation warehouse to Selby "and from thence by the New Shipping Company's Brigs which sail to Symond's Wharf, London, every four days". (4)

When Bradley Clay's property was sold in 1834, Lot 3 was described as "All that Timber and Boat Builder's yard with the timber sheds, workshops and the dry dock therein situate at the bottom of Dock Street in Huddersfield ... adjoining to Sir John Ramsden's Canal there and where the Business of Timber Merchant and Boat Builder have for several years been extensively carried on. (5). The purchase price was £400 and the purchaser Mr. Luke Marsden (of J. and L. Marsden, carriers by water to Manchester etc.) (6). Presumbably it was in this shipyard that the "Ramsden" was built in 1825.

1825 was an optimistic year for the Huddersfield Shipping Company. On 13th June a "superior sloop" was launched by them at Barugh Lock near Barnsley and on the 20th June a further two sloops were launched at Mirfield; these were built expressly for their London trade (7). 1828 saw the building of their sloop the "Perseverance" (8) and by the time Parson and White published their Directory (9) in 1830 the Huddersfield Shipping Company of Engine Bridge, Huddersfield could offer sloops direct to and from Irongate Wharf, London. It also operated fly boats daily to Saddleworth, Stayley Bridge, Ashton-under-Lyne, Oldham, Stockport and Manchester, whence goods were forwarded to Liverpool, Chester, North and South Wales, Staffordshire and to all parts of the south of England; also to Wakefield, Leeds, York, Hull and all parts of the North of England and Scotland. The Company's Agent was Richard Robinson of Aspley.

By 1837 the Huddersfield Shipping Company was, perhaps significantly, less ambitious. Its traffic was eastward to Selby and London, but under the same heading in the Directory appeared "and L. Dyson to Manchester etc. twice a week". (10)

Law Dyson was to become a significant figure in Huddersfield transport. He founded his business in c.1829 and operations gradually expanded. In 1830 he was a book-keeper in Dock Street. (11) By 1890 his son Herbert presided over one of the largest fullers' earth merchants in Yorkshire. (12) Law Dyson & Sons, Agents for Yorkshire for the Fuller's Earth Union Ltd., were manufacturers of white and tarred ropes, spun yarn, cords and twines, waggon, cart, boat, stack and horse covers. The firm had large stores at Huddersfield, Thornhill Lees and Goole, ready for transport to all parts of the West Riding and elsewhere.

Their Huddersfield warehouse at Aspley was erected in c.1781 and was one of the original carriers' receiving houses for the town. In 1890 it was described as being "situated on the canal wharf just off the main street." By 1853 (13) Law Dyson's vessels went daily from the wharf to Manchester, Liverpool etc. and this daily service continued into the 1860's. The cover shops were also at Aspley Place and the rope and twine works were at Bradley Mills. When Law Dyson died in 1874 however, he was largely thought of as being "extensively connected with railway traffic. (14) He must have been a man to move with the times! By 1874 he was also a director of the West Riding Union Banking Company.

By this time the Huddersfield Shipping Company had long since disappeared. 10 shares had been sold off in 1827 (15). It last appeared in the 1837 Directory and by 1842 disappeared, leaving only its "Rules" to evoke its memory. Unless any reader knows more ...

References

1. Rules and regulations of the Huddersfield Shipping Company, established September 1824. Huddersfield. T. Kemp, 1824. In Kirklees Local Studies Department, Huddersfield Library.

2. Op. cit. 1

3. Leeds Mercury 23rd April, 1825

4. Parson and White. Directory of the Borough of Leeds and the Clothing District of Yorkshire. 1830

5. Letter from Mr. Heap to Messrs. Fenton and Jones, Solicitors, 29th November 1844. DD/RE/c/6 in Ramsden Archives, Kirklees Archives Department, Huddersfield Library.

6. Ramsden Estate Rentals. 1831-1837, Ramsden Archives

7. Leeds Mercury. 25th June 1825

8. Leeds Mercury. 13th December 1828

9. Op. cit. 4

10. W. White. History, Gazetteer and Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire ... Volume 1 1837

11. Op. cit. 4

12. Industries of Yorkshire. Part 2 1890

13. W. White. Directory and Gazetteer of Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Wakefield and the whole of the Clothing Districts of the West Riding of Yorkshire. 1853.

14. Obituary of Law Dyson. Huddersfield Weekly Chronicle and Huddersfield Weekly Examiner. 31st October 1874

15. Leeds Mercury. 16th June 1827.

Textile History Group Goes Public

Some of the results of the T.H.G.'s first years work will be on show to the public during the autumn, in an exhibition entitled "Textile Heritage", at the Tolson Memorial Museum.

The original idea of an exhibition of photographs drawn from the Group's survey of mill buildings quickly grew to include documents, commemorative booklets, cloth samples business stationery and many other examples of what we have called the "raw material of local history. This material has been collected by members of the Group, put together as an exhibition by myself, and the design work has been carried out by Mrs Janette Townend of Kirklees' Technical and Conservation Unit.

The exhibition starts with a piece about the Group itself and its work, and includes appeal for help from the public. Following this is a selection from the fine collection of business stationery, often showing pictures of mills, put together by Clifford Stephenson. Sections showing other important sources of information - documents, books models, pattern books, etc. - have been gathered together by Stanley Sheard and Tom Wainwright.

Through the efforts of Anna Coombes, Peter Brook and Marion Rhodes have kindly contributed some of their own paintings and etchings of industrial landscapes, to show the artistic interpretation of the scene. Photographs feature throughout the exhibition, but specific sections include some of Ronald Bielby's magnificent studies, and Alan Brooke's records of Riverside Mills, Meltham, made before their demolition earlier this year.

Anna Coombes' detailed study of Parkwood Mills and the Broadbent family includes 19th century wage books and other documents, commemorative medals and various artifacts, and, to bring things up to date, information on the ultra-modern shuttleless "weaving machines" that have contributed towards the Mills' continued competitiveness. We are particularly grateful to Parkwood Mills, and to the Brotherton Library, University of Leeds, for lending some of the items in this section.

The exhibition is not all objects on screens or in cases. Recordings of Parkwood Mills will lend an authentically noisy tone, and Stanley Sheard has provided slides showing production processes at G.H. Norton's pile fabric mills at Scissett. We are hoping to have demonstrations of hand-loom weaving by Glyn Whitaker, and there may even be a concert of weavers' folk songs!

Venue: Tolson Memorial Museum, Ravensknowle Park, Wakefield Road, Huddersfield.

Dates: 17th September - 27th November 1983

Times: Mon. - Sat. 10.00 - 5.00; Sun. 1.00 - 5.00. Admission Free.

NB There will be a special evening opening of the Exhibition for members of the Local History Workshop and their guests, on Monday 19th September between 7.30 - 9.30.

John Rumsby

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION:
BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY

Huddersfield Local History Workshop is a member of both these Societies. A representative set of the Historical Associations publications on local history has been purchased and members may order personal copies of these at a 33 1/3% discount from the rate for non-members. Details are shown below.

Appreciations in History

AH1	The Early Factory Acts and their Enforcement.	U. Henriques 1971	£1.20

General Series

G 76	Elementary Education in the 19th Century. G. Sutherland 1971	£1.20 ea.
G 82	The British General Strike 1926. M. Morris 1973	
G 90	English Local Government in the 19th & 20th Centuries . B. Keith-Lucas 1977	
G 104	The Poor Law in 19th Century England and Wales. A. Digby 1982	
G 107	Landscape History. C.H. Knowles 1983	

Local History Guides to Historical Records

H 62	County Records: Quarter Sessions, Petty Sessions, Clerk of the Peace and Leiutenancy, 1948 rev. F.G. Emmison & I. Gray 1973	£1.20 ea.
H 71	Archaeology for the Historian. D.P. Dymond 1967	
H 72	Title Deeds (13th-19th Centuries). A.A. Dibben 1968	
H 73	Small Houses in England 1520-1820: towards a classification. P. Eden 1969	
H 78	The English House in the 19th Century. V. Parker 1970	
H 83	Medieval Local Records. K.C. Newton 1971	
H 85	Local Record Sources in Print and in Progress 1972-76 J. Youings, 1972 rev. 1977	
H 87	Material for Theses in Local Record Offices and Libraries F.G. Emmison & W.J. Smith 1979	
H 88	British National Archives and the Local Historian. A. Morton & G. Donaldson 1980	
H 89	Medieval Records in Print: Bishops' Registers D.M. Owen 1982	
H 69	Local History Handlist: a select bibliography & guide to sources in England and Wales, 5th edition (limited), 1982, comp. A.T. Hall, 176 pp.(A4)	£9.00
	Short Guides to Records ed. L.M. Munby reprints of articles orig. published in HISTORY e.g. Rate and Poll Books bound 1973	£3.60

Information Leaflets (8pp)

IL8	Beginning English Local History - F.E. Manning 1982

The British Association for Local History is holding a day school on "Upland Communities" at Ingleton on October 15th 1983.

JOINT MEETING WITH WAKEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our first joint meeting with another local history society took place on 26th March 1983 at Bretton Hall College. About thirty members of the Wakefield Historical Society and the Huddersfield Local History Workshop met to enjoy talks given by three speakers. The theme was Local Landed Families and Mr. Cyril Pearce spoke about "The Beaumonts of Bretton and their Archives". Mr. Geoffrey Markham talked about "The Wentworths of Woolley and Mr. Clifford Stephenson spoke about "The Ramsdens of Huddersfield". Members who attended this meeting found it both informative and enjoyable. The setting of the meeting at Bretton Hall College enhanced its interest for many and it is hoped that further joint meetings will be arranged in the future.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

We have received copies of the West Yorkshire History Newsletter "For the Record" No. 6 Spring 1983 and the Annual Report 1982-1983 of the West Yorkshire Archive Service.

FAMILY HISTORY

It has been suggested that members interested in family history may be interested in getting together to exchange ideas and information. Anyone interested may contact Mrs. Haigh who will arrange a meeting if desired.

SPEAKERS

The Committee would welcome suggestions of speakers and themes for future meetings and also ideas for excursions.